

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 2, 2010 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments considered. Claims 1-10 and 12-30 are pending in this application. Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 15 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 30 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, the subject matter of claim 30 is incorporated into base claim 1, and claims 18-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, in order to remove all outstanding issues in this case. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, and 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0183826 to Dorn et al. ("Dorn") in view of US 2002/0058963 to Vale et al. ("Vale"). Claims 17, 22, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorn. Claims 1, 4, 7-10, 12-14, 16- 25, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vale in view of Dorn.

Without conceding the propriety of the asserted combinations or the allegations in the Office Action, in the interest of compact prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of claim 30, which is hereby canceled. Also canceled are claims 18-29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 30 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 is amended herein to include the subject matter of allowable claim 30 in order to place this case in condition for allowance.

Rejoinder

Applicants respectfully submit that withdrawn claims 2-3, 5-6, and 15 depend from allowable independent claim 1, and therefore request rejoinder of the withdrawn claims directed to a non-elected species pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

Conclusion

Each of the presently pending claims in this application following entry of this amendment is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2191, under Order No. 101671.0013P from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 2, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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